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Econ 411

Course Project

My plan for the course project is to create a model that condenses all of the value provided by each Major League starting pitcher per year into one number. This is already a popular concept for position players using a statistic called WAR (Wins Above Replacement) and while there is a pitching adaptation of it, I think it would be beneficial to create a separate statistic for only starting pitchers. My reasoning for this is that position players and pitchers have very different jobs and I often find pitching WAR to have significant limitations. This will likely be a very challenging model to build with the number of variables involved and my own lack of experience with Python, but I think this would be a useful and beneficial project for me. After graduation, I plan to work in sports (specifically baseball) and I think having a background in predictive (or in this case descriptive) modeling would help me achieve that goal. It’s possible that a software designed around regressions (such as JMP) would be better for this task, but I’m hopeful that I will be able to find a way to build it in Python. I’ve included a dataset from Baseball Reference that includes statistics of all starting pitchers from the 2022 season. Using this resource, I can access further stats or information that I may need.